



Ten Things to Know About the Pennsylvania Turnpike

1 We are the second-largest tolling agency in terms of miles – a stat that matters.

At 565+ miles, the Pennsylvania Turnpike is the nation's second-largest tolling agency. Compared to our peer agencies, we have more road to monitor, to clear of snow and debris, to improve and rebuild. Each additional mile increases the Commission's operational demands because our goal is to consistently provide a safe, reliable, customer-valued roadway.

2 Before there were interstates, there was the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Hailed an engineering marvel when it opened to traffic in 1940, the Pennsylvania Turnpike was the first superhighway. The Interstate Highway System didn't open until 1956, and when it did, it took numerous design and engineering cues from our roadway. The PA Turnpike's initial 160 miles featured smoothed curves, reduced grades, standardized rights of way and lack of cross-traffic – setting the standard for what's today defined as a "normal" travel experience. We continue to embrace innovation today and are committed to driving the standard for safety, customer service, and mobility.

3 We are not PennDOT.

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission operates as an independent agency and functions as a quasi-governmental organization with its own governance and revenue sources. This sets us apart from states like Florida, Massachusetts and Ohio, whose tolling agencies are managed by their DOTs. While the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is a valuable partner, the PA Turnpike Commission independently runs its projects and operations.

4 We don't receive tax dollars for our operations.

The PA Turnpike does not receive state or federal tax dollars for its operations or maintenance. Tolls are a user fee, not a tax, and only those who drive the PA Turnpike fund its core services and upkeep.

5 Annual toll increases fund Act 44's imposed debt – not our operations.

Pennsylvania's Legislature passed Act 44 of 2007 nearly 20 years ago, opting to leverage the PA Turnpike to fund statewide transportation needs in lieu of raising taxes. As a result, the Commission has paid more than \$8 billion to date for projects outside of the Turnpike.

The funding needs of Act 44 exceeded the Commission's resources, resulting in borrowed funds with escalating debt service. This means the debt payments increase yearly for the same amount of debt. To support these payments, the debt is financed through annual toll increases. Prior to Act 44, the Commission had only raised tolls five times in its history.

6 We are a cashless system.

After examining its feasibility as early as 2011 and successful early pilots, the Pennsylvania Turnpike fully transitioned to a cashless system in 2020. The shift, originally planned for 2021 but expedited due to the COVID pandemic, aligned us with industry standards and accommodated growing customer expectations for seamless, convenient and safe travel.

7 Our E-ZPass passenger rates are below the national average.

Despite being the nation's second-largest tolling agency, we've kept toll rates mid-range compared to our peers. Based on 2025 costs, the Pennsylvania Turnpike's E-ZPass passenger per-mile rates are below the national average of other toll roads, bridges and tunnels in the United States. We've achieved both through [controlled spending, efficient debt management and innovation](#).

8 Not having an E-ZPass costs you more.

Using the Toll By Plate program (which uses cameras on the roadway to capture license plate images) costs travelers more. This is due to additional processing costs associated with the program. **By contrast, 85% of customers take advantage of the PA Turnpike's E-ZPass program to save 50% on tolls.**

9 Our service plazas operate independently of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

While the PA Turnpike Commission owns the service plaza buildings, third-party contractors lease the food and fuel concessions. 7-Eleven Inc. provides fuel, while Applegreen provides food concession.

The concessionaires are responsible for operating, maintaining and managing all restaurants and fuel outlets at the service plazas.

10 There is no hyphen in our official logo.

We transitioned to a new logo almost two decades ago. The official Pennsylvania Turnpike logo does not include a hyphen. Official branding resources can be found here: [Media Center | PA Turnpike](#)

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